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NO COMPLETE RECORDS OF VITAL STATISTICS

America Far Behind Other Nations in Regard to Registrations-Accurate Figures Fundamental to Practical Application of Hygiene.

provisional birth registration area, in the United States, for the purpose of compiling statistics enabling the scientific study and prevent'on of infinite mortality, has been submitted to Census. Director Durand, by Dr. Crossy L. Wilbur, chief statistician for vital statistics in the Census Burcau, who is directing the work.

The statement notes that it may be superising and even humiliating to the average American citizen to learn that this country is far belind most foreign nations in regard to vital statistics, and that there is not a single State, not even a single city, in the entire United States which possesses a complete registration of births. Boston claims to have the best, but only 26 per cent complete, while probably the most worthless registration of births among all the cities of the entire world. It is stated, may be claimed by Baitimore Chicago and New Orleans.

Although foreign countries register practically 196 per cent, of their births, it was decided by the Census Bureau, when it began to establish provisional registration area, that the high standard adaphorad could not be maintained in the United States. In fact, for the States whose vital statistics and records are now reported to the Census Bureau, when it began to establish provisional registration area, that the high standard registration area, that the high standard registration area, that the high standard abroad could not be maintained in the United States. In fact, for the States whose vital statistics and records are now reported to the Census Bureau, when it began to establish provisional registration area, that the high standard registration area, that the high standard registration area, that the high standard registration of burths. Both the mortality, is being actively and widely maged. Owing to births, with the exception of the District, that with the exception of the II is of Columbia and the Territories, all laws governing vital statistics and registration of births. Boston with the fact of Columbia and the Territories, a

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well when they have been laundered properly. A trial of our work will con-

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] registration records in the States in the Washington, January 31.—An inter-provisional area have been received esting statement regarding the estab- at the Census Bureau, and the work lishment by the Census Bureau of a of compiling the figures is being pushprovisional birth registration area, in ed to completion. Meanwhile, the cam-

the very high mortality of infants, Many leading women's clubs are also engaged in an educational movement along these lines.

The statement adds that what is chiefly needed in planning and conducting this work are complete and accurate statistics of infantile mortality for individual cities, rural districts, and States for the nation as a whole. The accurate statement of infantile mortality registration of both births and deaths. The statistical definition of the term "infantile mortality" is "the ratio of the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, exclusive for stillborn, to 1,600 children born alive." Reference is made to a recent report by the census committee on the registration of births in which it is stated:

"Talk about registration of births in the United States! Why, for not more than one-half (55.3 per cent.) of the total population of this country is there even fairly accurate registration of deaths alone. No other civilized not mean barbarity in its respect or holds the vital records of its people in such low esteem. America should not mean barbarity in its relation to infantile life."

The remedy proposed for this condition of affairs should provide, first, for the enactment of adequate laws for complete registration of births and deaths in all States that do not at present posses, them; and, second, for the thorough enforcement of present

It is stated that the principles upon which successful registration laws must be enacted in this country have been thoroughly settled in the light of practical experience, and a model law in conformity with such principles has been drawn up and indorsed by medical and public health associations. This law has been put into operation in several States, and is giving most excellent and satisfactory results where its provisions are really enforced; but in the great majority of States the compulsory enforcement of the provisions of the laws for the registration of births, by means of the penalties probirths, by means of the penalties provided for noncompliance, is practically a dead letter, and is mainly responsible for the worthless character of the United States statistics of hirths and the utter absence of any reliable figures for infantile mortality.

It is estimated that in the United States the deaths of bables less than a year old constitute one-fifth of the annual total mortality, and of these deaths at least 125,000 need not have occurred if modern bygiene, as it is known to-day, were practiced universally.

The Bureau of Census has been continually laboring, since its permanent organization in 1962, for better vital statistics, which means as a very important part thereof registration of infant mortality. It is urged that the attack upon infant mortality begins with the diarrhocal and intestinal discases of infancy. The prevention of these diseases, which are pre-eminently "filth diseases," will wipe out one-fourth of the total number of deaths of babies under two years of age.

The accurate collection, tabulation and analysis of records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and sickness—may be said to constitute the bookkeeping of humanity. It is fundamental to the practical application of hygiene to secure higher efficiency, longer duration of life, and fuller measure of happiness.

P. H. McG. The Bureau of Census has been con-

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ALLEGED SWINDLER CAUGHT

Grand Jury Resumes Investigation of Appointation Company's Affairs.

Times-Dispatch Bureau,

109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., January 31. The steamer Aurora, of the Phillips Line, running between Petersburg and Richmond, was sold at public auction by Bartlett Roper, Jr., and J. A. C. Groner, receivers of the line, this afternoon, and was purchased by Horaca Furman, of this city, on a bid of \$1,050. The first bid was \$500, and there were

It is the intention of the purchaser to establish an independent or people's line between Richmond and Pe tersburg, and points on James River.

Civil Sult Deelded. The Hustings Court was engaged for everal hours to-day in the trial of the

suit of the Empire Distilling Company of New York, against W. J. Brockwell of this city, an action to recover the sum of \$380, on certain notes given by the defendant. The jury rendered a verdiet for the plaintiff company, for the full amount claimed, with interest, Roper & Davis were the attorneys for the plaintiff, and Lassister & Drewry for the detendant

Death in Asheville. A telegram received here announces death in Asheville, N. C., at 7 o'clock this morning of G. A. Peterson a well known merchant and citizen of Petersburg. Mr. Peterson was the son of the late Rev. P. A. Peterson, D. D., of the Virginia Conference, and had long been engaged in mercantile busident of the Peterson-Nelson Hardware company, and was formerly the senior iember of the Peterson-Jefferson Company. He was about forty years old ls survived by his wife and one child. He had been in declining health for some time. The remains will be brought to Petersburg for burial.

Arrest of Alleged Swindler, of of Police Ragiand was advised several days ago by the Periodical Publishers, Association, of New York, to be on the lookout for an alleged swindler, who had been visiting various

American Magazine at a very low price, and offering as a premium to subscribers an ebony back toilet set, and heard from to-morrow. collecting the subscription money in advance. The association stated that no such man was connected with it or with the Magazine. The man gave receipts under several different names, and a description of him was sent to Chief Ragland. To-day the man was discovered at his work in Petersburg. and Detective Heclar and Officers Hudgins and Stewart were put on his trail.

be held for his appearance in the Police Court to-morrow. Struck by a Train.

Mary Eliza Bonner, an aged colored woman, living in Pocahontas, was struck and probably fatally injured this morning by the Cannon Ball train the meritable left have for Pichward a faw. which left here for Richmond a few minutes after 11 o'clock. The old woman, it was said, was picking up coal along the track in Pocahontas, and did not get out of the way of the train, which was slowed down quick enough to prevent the accident. She was badly though there are several applicant. to prevent the accident. She was badly though there are several applicants cut and bruised about the head and for the position. The board desires to body, and was sent to the hospital to be cared for.

After a recess since Friday evening, the grand jury of the Hustings Court resumed its investigation of the Old Appoint to Company, sitting from 19 promotions of pupils and the forma-A. M. to 2 P. M., and meeting again this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. The The warehouses of the Phillips Line in Petersburg and Richmond were not Paul Pettit, W. I. Young, Robert Cabaniss and Charles Hall Davis, the last being in the chair when the adjourn- be held in Washington February 13. ment at 2 o'clock took place, and being

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The jury is nearing the close of its investigation, and may probably be

Personal and Otherwise. Mrs. John Herbert Claiborne and daughter, Miss Donald Claiborne, left yesterday for New York, whence they will sail for Bermuda for a visit of several weeks.

It is said that three of the lawyers in Dinwiddie county are candidates for the office of Commonwealth's at-

Thomas E. Clarke, for several terms the member of the House of Delegates from Dinwiddie, will offer for re-elec-

tion this year. A meeting of the directors of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty get the best man for the place. A committee was appointed to solicit

membership for the society. The second session of the public schools begins to-morrow. The recent

tion of new classes. Secretary William M. Martin will probably be sent as a delegate from the Chamber of Commerce to the Southern Commercial Conference, to Joseph H. Slater, eighteen years old, son of Mrs. Emma Slater, on Mistletoe Street, died at an early hour this morning in the Petersburg Hospital of peri-tonitis. He had been ill for several weeks, but was taken to the hospital only two or three days ago.

only two or three days ago.

Surgery at Hospital.

By invitation of Dr. W. F. Drewry,
superintendent of the Central State
Hospital, Dr. Shelton Horsley, of the
Medical College of Virginia, Richmond,
visited that institution to-day and,
with the assistance of the hospital
staff, operated on several of the page staff, operated on several of the patients. Operations of this character have heretofore proved beneficial, and only such patients as it is thought will be benefited are operated on.

Cases of bookworm disease have been found at the hospital.

After a Negro Insulter.
The police of this city are on the lookout for one Moses Jackson, a for-Monogram Watch Fob somewhat inside now, who is enarged with insulting a young woman at her home in Chesterfield. He is thought to be making his way towards Peters-Any initials. Durable, dressy. Mail burg. Parties are hinting for him in Orders solicited. Chesterfield, and lynching might have followed his capture. The negro was driven from the house at the point of

Petersburg, and several of the Methodist pulpits were coccupied by prominent Anti-Saloon preachers.

CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER MERGER OF TWO CITIES

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Norfolk, Va., January 31.-A conference between representatives of the Portsmouth Business Men's Association A large crowd of people attended will be held to-morrow night at \$:30 and the Board of Trade of Norfolk the opening of the new Petersburg o'clock in the directors' room of the glis and stewart were put on his trail.

He gave the officers an exciting chase before he was captured, running through Tabb, High and Cross Streets, and in and out of houses. He gives the institution in its completeness and tion of the directors' room of the Norfolk organization. The conference is relative to the proposed consolidation of houses. He gives

tion of the two cities.

It is expected that the meeting will be largely attended by those interested, as recently the question of merging the two cities has been given freshimpetus. It is said that something tangible regarding the long discussed consolidation of the two cities is likely to result from the meeting.

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